Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 04593 121406Z

42 R
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 SSO-00 IGA-02 SS-20 SP-03 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4553
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 4593

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MASS, TU, SNAR
SUBJECT: FY 74 TURKISH MAP

REF A) ANKARA 4462, B) STATE 123485, C) MSG FROM ADM
PEET TO ADM WILLIAMS DTG 102207Z JUNE 74

1. I REGRET CONFUSION WHICH HAS DEVELOPED RE HANDLING OF FY 74 TURKISH MAP PROGRAM. WHILE EARLIER EMBASSY REPORTING HAD OUTLINED STRATEGY WE WISHED TO FOLLOW HERE, IT SEEMS CLEAR TO ME NOW THAT IN MUTUAL EFFORT TO "SAVE" TURK FY74 FUNDS EMBASSY AND WASHINGTON INADVERTENTLY WERE TALKING PAST EACH OTHER RE HOW FUNDS WOULD BE HANDLED ONCE THEY HAD BEEN SAVED. IN REVIEWING MY CONVERSATIONS WITH ADMIRAL PEET DURING CONSULTATION, FOR EXAMPLE, I CAN NOW SEE HOW WORDS EMPLOYED BY BOTH OF US MEANT SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT TO THE OTHER. HOWEVER, I HAVE
NOW CONCLUDED THAT EVEN IF THERE HAD BEEN MORE EXPLICIT WASHINGTON UNDERSTANDING OF PROPOSED EMBASSY STRATEGY, THE LATTER WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PRACTICABLE FOR REASONS OUTLINED IN REF B AND C, AND WE WOULD THEREFORE HAVE LIKELY ENDED UP IN PRESENT SITUATION IN ANY EVENT.

2. THE OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE OF COURSE IS TO USE ALL PRACTICABLE MEANS TO EMPHASIZE TO TURKS ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES, IN CRITICAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE AREA, WHICH ARE INTIMATELY BOUND UP WITH
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 04593 121406Z

DECISION RE POPPY BAN RESCISSION. WHILE, IF IT WERE PRACTICAL,

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

I WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO HOLD BACK TOTAL RELEASE OF FY 74 GRANT AID PROGRAM, DELAYS THAT HAVE BEEN EFFECTED SO FAR IN PROGRAM HAVE, I BELIEVE, CONVEYED SOME MESSAGE OF IMPORTANCE TO TURK MILITARY, AND HOPEFULLY COMMENTS MADE TO GENERAL SANCAR DURING RECENT WASHINGTON VISIT RE FY 75 PROGRAM HAVE CARRIED THIS MESSAGE FURTHER AND MORE EXPLICITLY.

3. IN LAST COUPLE OF DAYS I AM BEGINNING TO GET SLIGHT INDICATIONS THAT US MESSAGE RE POPPIES BEGINNING TO HAVE SOME EFFECT.

WHILE ODDS ARE STILL STRONG THAT GOT WILL GO AHEAD, THEY ARE IN MY JUDGMENT NOT QUITE AS OVERWHELMING AS THEY HAD EARLIER BEEN. IN ANY CASE, GOT HAS, AS WE KNOW, AT LEAST SO FAR DELAYED DECISION AND I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE INDEED IF, AS LONG AS THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS OBTAINS, SOME MILITARY ASSISTANCE DOES NOT CONTINUE TO FLOW. AS CHOICE APPARENTLY IS EITHER TO ALLOW PROGRAM TO GO AHEAD OR TO STOP IT ALTOGETHER, ONLY CHANCE WE HAVE OF HEADING OFF BAN IS TO ALLOW PROGRAM TO GO AHEAD. FURTHERMORE, EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT "GOING AHEAD" DOES NOT MEAN THAT BULK OF PROGRAM WILL SUDDENLY AND QUICKLY BE DELIVERED TO GOT. I EXPECT POPPY BAN DECISION WILL BE REACHED SOMETIME BETWEEN NOW AND MID-SEPTEMBER, AND IF DECISION IS ADVERSE WE CAN AT THAT TIME, AS PART OF OVERALL REVIEW OF TURKISH SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, EXAMINE WHETHER OR NOT IT WISE TO HOLD UP ON DELIVERIES, OVERWHELMING PROPORTION OF WHICH WILL NOT YET HAVE BEEN MADE.

4. IN VIEW FOREGOING, AND IN VIEW OF FACT THAT TURKISH OFFICIALS WERE APPRISED IN WASHINGTON OF OBLIGATION OF FULL FUNDING FOR FY74 PROGRAM, ATTEMPT TO APPLY SQUEEZE THROUGH STRETCH-OUT OF REQUISITION PROCESS ON ANKARA END WOULD BE READILY RECOGNIZABLE BY TURKS AS CRUDE PRESSURE TACTIC AND WOULD AGAIN BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. I HAVE THEREFORE AUTHORIZED JUSMMAT TO PROCEED WITH THAT PROTION OF PROGRAM CONTROLLED HERE. IN CONNECTION WITH ITEMS CONTROLLED FROM WASHINGTON END, I ACCEPT OPTION B OF REF A, PARA 3.

5. AS REGARDS EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES (EDA), WE WILL CONTINUE TO USE A SELECTIVE APPROACH HERE ON MAJOR ITEMS, EXAMINING THE PROS AND CONS ON OFFERING OR WITHHOLDING THEM CASE BY CASE.
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